

River Safety



Your 24-hour toll-free phone number for reporting crimes or emergencies in Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area
1-800-543-4295
1-800-543-Hawk

- **ALWAYS WEAR A LIFE JACKET (PFD) WHILE BOATING!** Each occupant on a boat must have a life vest which fits properly, is in good shape, and is accessible in an emergency. **Children who are 12 years of age and younger *MUST* wear a life jacket on board a vessel.**
- **YOUR LIFE JACKET CAN'T SAVE YOU IF YOU DON'T HAVE IT ON!** Tie your spare gear into your canoe but **WEAR** your life vest. *Don't* tie your lifejacket (PFD) into the canoe.
- *Never stand in a canoe. Kneel* in the canoe when going through rapids.
- Wear shoes to protect your feet from sharp stones and from glass.
- Protect yourself from the sun: wear sun screen, a hat, light clothing, sunglasses.
- **DRINKING AND BOATING DON'T MIX!** Alcoholic beverages are not permitted at Milford Beach PA and in the area between Depew Island on the north and Depue Island on the south. This includes: Smithfield Beach and Hialeah Picnic Area PA, Turtle Beach NJ, Worthington State Forest NJ and its campground, and Tocks and Labar Islands NJ.
- **DRINKING AND SWIMMING DON'T MIX! DON'T DRINK-THEN-SWIM.**
- The river has sharp drop-offs and strong currents. **DO NOT TRY TO SWIM OR WADE ACROSS THE RIVER!**
- **NEVER SWIM ALONE!**
- Plan to be off the river before dark.
- Bring enough water. Don't drink river water unless it is boiled at least 3 minutes.

River Distances

Canoeists average about 2 miles an hour, but their speed can vary greatly with river level, wind, current, and paddling skill.

MILEAGE BETWEEN RIVER ACCESS POINTS (See map)	MILES point to point	CUMULATIVE from Milford Beach
Milford Beach PA (mile 0) to Namanock NJ (mile 4)	4	4
Namanock NJ (mile 4) to Dingmans Ferry PA (mile 8)	4	8
Dingmans PA (mile 8) to Eshback PA (mile 14)	6	14
Eshback PA (mile 14) to Bushkill PA (mile 18)	4	18
Bushkill PA (mile 18) to Poxono NJ (mile 26)	8	26
Poxono NJ (mile 26) to Smithfield PA (mile 28)	2	28
Smithfield PA (mile 28) to Worthington SF NJ (mile 30)	2	30
Worthington SF NJ (mile 30) to Kittatinny Pt. NJ CANOE ONLY (mile 34)	4	34

Overnight on the River

SEE RIVER MAP on page 2 for campsites and access points

Rivers Bend Group Campsite is available by advance permit to non-profit groups only.
Valley View Group Campsites are available by advance permit only. Site 1 at Valley View is accessible. For reservations call (570) 296-8757.

River campsites are for boaters on trips where the distance is too great to be travelled in one day. *See below for the required minimum distance you must travel on an overnight trip.*

Required minimum distances on Overnight Trips

- One-night trips (at least 14 miles)**
- Put in at Milford Beach; travel to Eshback Access *or farther downstream*
 - Put in at Dingmans Access OR at Eshback Access; travel to Smithfield Beach Access *or Kittatinny Point Access or farther downstream*
- Two-night trips (at least 26 miles)**
- Put in at Milford Beach Access; travel to Smithfield Beach Access *or farther downstream*
 - Put in at Dingmans Access; travel to Kittatinny Point Access *or farther downstream*
- Three-night trips (at least 34 miles)**
- Put in at Milford Beach Access; travel to Kittatinny Point Access *or farther downstream*



Camping is allowed ONLY in areas designated by this sign.

- Camping is limited to **one night** in each location, first come first served. *There are at present no fees and no reservations. (See notice at left for group sites.)*
- Use a campstove rather than a campfire. Fires are permitted in existing fire grates only. Keep fires small. Use **dead & down wood** only. Do not cut standing trees.
- Use soaps sparingly; even biodegradable soaps are pollutants. Soap and food particles should be dumped on well-drained soil away from water sources.
- Respect the river and those who follow you. Do not urinate or defecate within 100 ft. of any river or stream. Fecal material, including pet waste, must be placed in a hole at least 300 ft. away from water. The hole must be at least 6” deep, and be covered with at least 6” of soil.
- Loud audio devices and fireworks are prohibited. Observe quiet hours from 10:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m.
- Do not leave food that will attract wildlife. *Carry out leftover food and garbage.*

Equipment List

Store **gear** in waterproof containers or “dry” bags tied into the canoe. **Do NOT tie your lifejacket (PFD) into the canoe**

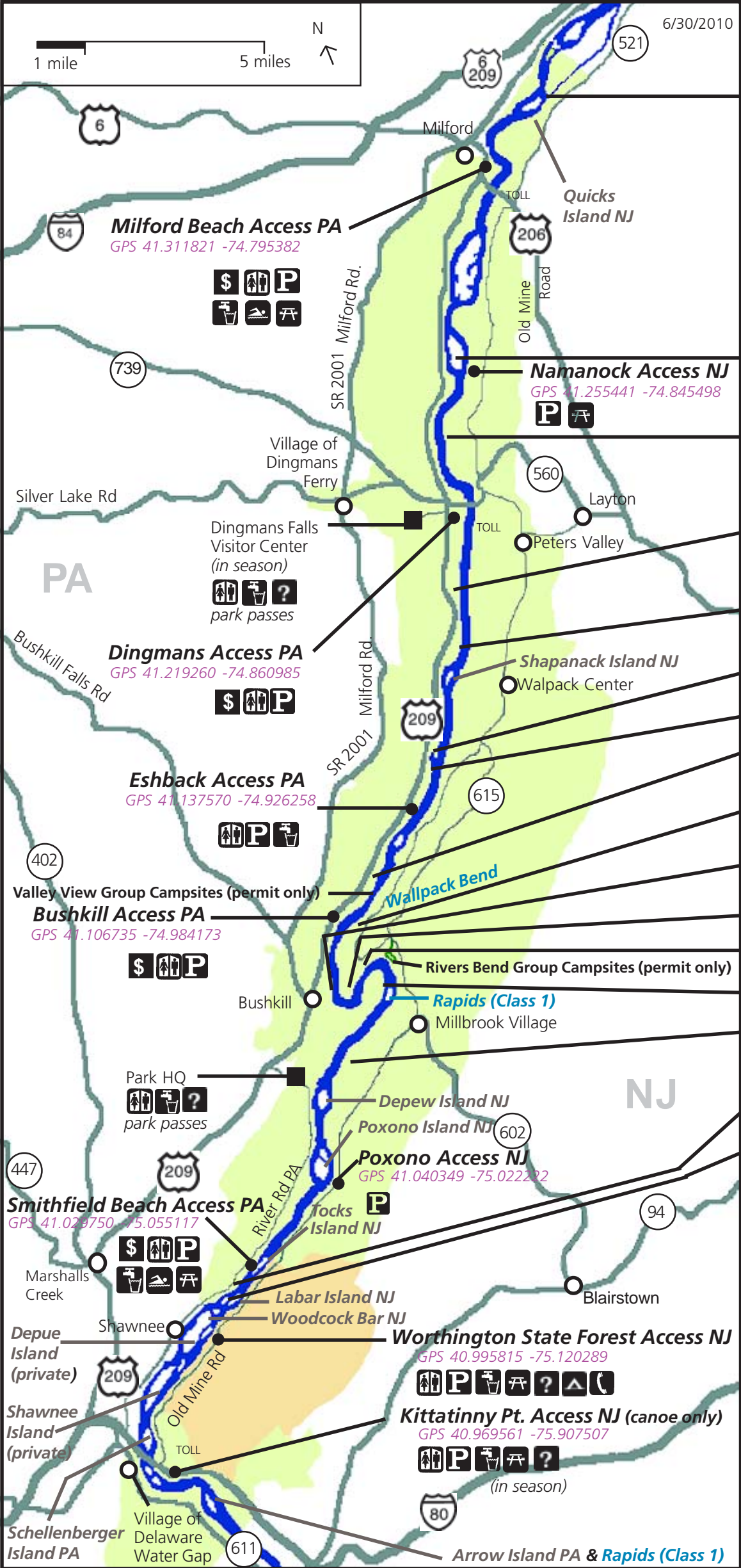
Fishing/Boating

For a day trip: a spare paddle if you have one, meals for the trip and some extra, trash bags, water bailer, kneeling pads, waterproof bags, raingear, windbreaker, insect repellent, map or guidebook, flashlight, spare car keys

- Within the park, a **fishing license** from Pennsylvania ORNew Jersey is required to fish on the river or from itsbanks.
- **No wake zones** are enforced within 500 ft. of designated swimming areas at Smithfield Beach PA and Turtle Beach NJ.
- A **speed limit of 10 m.p.h.** is enforced elsewhere on the river within the park from April 1 to September 30 each year.
- A **speed limit of 35 m.p.h.** is enforced on the river within the park at other times of year. *Waterskiing is prohibited.*

River & Canoe Campsite Map

Access points are open to both boats and canoes unless otherwise noted.



RIVER CAMPSITES

Site # (individuals per site)

Mashipacong Island NJ
Site #1 (4 persons per site)
GPS 41.334419 -74.761520

FEES are charged in season for parking at Milford Beach, Dingmans Access, Bushkill Access, and Smithfield Beach PA. Annual park passes are sold at park headquarters and at visitor centers.

Namanock Island NJ
Sites #14-17 (6 persons per site)
GPS 41.25441 -74.845498

Sandyston NJ
Sites #18-23 (6 persons per site)
GPS 41.248880 -74.855515

Dingmans Shallows PA
Site #24 (4 persons per site)
GPS 41.185276 -74.880993

Hornbecks PA
Sites #27-29 (4 persons per site)
GPS 41.178972 -74.885157

Jerry Lees PA
Sites #33-34 (8 persons per site)
GPS 41.153859 -74.908620

Mill Creek PA
Site #35 (8 persons per site)

Toms Creek PA
Sites #39-42 (6 persons per site)
GPS 41.127015 -74.948574

Ratcliffs NJ
Sites #52-54 (6 persons per site)
GPS 41.112459 -74.973252

Bushkill Creek PA
Site #55 (6 persons per site)
GPS 41.092099 -74.993005

Peters NJ
Sites #56-68 (6 persons per site)

Quinns NJ
Sites #73-79 (6 persons per site)

Freeman Point PA
Sites #82-83 (6 persons per site)

Hamilton NJ
Sites #89-100 (6 persons per site)
GPS 41.076054 -74.993537

Walters PA
Site #106 (8 persons per site)
GPS 41.018860 -75.074184

Hialeah Island PA
Sites #107-108 (8 persons per site)

If you capsize DON'T PANIC!

- Stay with your capsized canoe! Even a swamped canoe can support you.
- Keep on the upstream side of the canoe to avoid being pinned against a rock or obstacle.
- If you lose your canoe, float on your back, feet first and pointed downstream.
- Don't stand up in rapids. Your feet and legs can get trapped; the current can pull you under.
- Save people first! Retrieve equipment only if it can be done safely.